

I CLAIM:

1) A method of facilitating visualization and specification of a countertop profile comprises the steps of:

i) providing a model of a countertop having a central portion having front and rear edge portions, multiple front portions any one of which may be moved adjacent to a front edge portion of the central portion, and multiple rear portions any one of which may be moved adjacent to the rear edge portion of the central portion;

ii) selecting a preferred front portion and moving it into alignment with the front edge portion of the central portion; and,

iii) selecting a preferred rear portion and moving it into alignment with the rear edge portion of the central portion so that a full countertop profile of preferred design is displayed.

2) A method as in claim 1 wherein the central portion of the countertop profile is generally L shaped, is truncated in length, and has a front edge portion and a rear upper edge portion.

3) A method as in claim 2 further comprising the step of designating and identifying the front, central, and rear countertop portions with an alpha numeric character so that a countertop profile may be fully specified with an ordered 3 character designation.

4) A method as in claim 3 wherein the front and rear countertop portions are identified with one of a letter and a numeric digit, and wherein the other of the letter and numeric digit specify the central portion of the countertop.

5) A method as in claim 2 wherein the model comprises a board displaying cross sectional strips cut from across countertops, one strip of a central countertop portion is centrally affixed to the display board, and wherein cross sectional pieces of different designs of front countertop portions are arranged along a front edge of the central portion, and wherein cross sectional pieces of different rear countertop portions are arranged along a rear edge of the central portion so that a complete countertop cross section is shown when a selected front countertop portion, and selected rear countertop portion, are juxtaposed with the front and upper rear edge portions of the central countertop portion.

6) A method as in claim 5 wherein the board further comprises tracks extending from the front and rear counter top portions respectively to the front and rear edge portions, so that a user may slide a selected front and rear countertop portion into a properly aligned position with the central countertop portion, thereby displaying a complete countertop profile.

7) A method as in 6 wherein the track extends through a thickness of the display board and wherein the front and rear countertop portions are slidably attached to the board by a member extending through and behind the board.

8) A method as in claim 7 wherein the member attaching the front and rear countertop portions to the board comprises a cylindrical sleeve having an outside diameter nominally less than the width of the track which is cut through the thickness of the display board, and wherein a screw extends first through a flat washer, the sleeve in the track, and then into one of the countertop portions thereby slidably attaching the countertop portion to a front side of the board over the track therein.

9) A method as in claim 8 further comprising a spring and a friction flat washer, said spring and friction washer having an inside opening which closely and slidably exceeds the outside diameter of the sleeve, so that when the friction washer and then the spring are positioned over the sleeve before the screw and flat washer attach the sleeve to the end portion of the countertop, the end portion of the countertop is thereby pulled against a front side portion of the board over the track.

10) A method as in claim 9 further comprising a second central countertop portion centrally positioned on the display board, said second central countertop portion similarly having cross sectional pieces of different designs of front

countertop portions arranged along a front edge of the central portion, and cross sectional pieces of rear countertop portions arranged along an upper rear edge of the central portion so that a second complete countertop profile is shown when selected countertop portions are juxtaposed adjacent to the front and upper rear edge portions of the second central countertop portion thereby facilitating comparison between two complete countertop profiles of interest.

11) A method as in claim 10 further comprising a third central countertop portion centrally positioned on the display board, said third central countertop portion having a generally planar profile, and similarly having cross sectional pieces of different designs of front countertop portions arranged along a front edge of the central portion, and cross sectional pieces of rear countertop portions arranged along a rear edge of the central portion so that a generally planar complete countertop profile is shown when selected countertop portions are juxtaposed adjacent to the front and rear edge portions of the generally planar central countertop portion.